Up and Down the Street

Ute-Ouray Oil Interests Net $7000 Monthly

By Robert W. Bernick

Ute-Ouray Indians are collecting about $7000 a month from two wells now producing at Roosevelt field, Uintah County, Utah, Carter Oil Co., subsidiary of Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey, said Thursday.

The figure does not take into account production from the discovery on tribal lands at a new field near Duchesne, Duchesne County.

Oil was discovered at Roosevelt in 1949.

According to Carter's publica-The Link, the Indians have approved a unitization plan for Roosevelt field after a tribal mass meeting on the matter.

Plan Common Pool

The proposal is to place 35,000 acres of land in the area around Whiterocks into a common pool. The Indians own more than half of the land, while the state of Utah and private citizens hold the remainder.

(The State of Utah has approved joining the unit, as well.)

Such a program will provide for orderly and systematic development of the field.

The "unit agreement" calls for initial drilling of nine field wells —to delineate main areas of the field—and for erection of dewaxing, repressuring and natural gas stripping plants in the area.

Participating in the discussion at Fort Duchesne were some 300 members of the tribe and their representatives, including F. R. Stone, superintendent of the Uintah and Ouray reservation; John S. Boyden, Salt Lake City, tribal attorney; J. R. Schwabrow, United States geological supervisor for the area, and Rex Curry, chairman of the tribal business committee.

Represent Company

Carter, the unit operator, was represented by its northwest division land man, John Cook, Denver and W. E. Clay, district land man, Salt Lake City.

The USGS official told the Indians that "the thing that's ruined a good many oil fields in the United States is this competitive idea that 'I'm going to get mine as soon as I can.'"

"And it isn't good, because the oil contains gas in solution and the gas bubbles out of the oil due to rapid production. That's why there's a lot of that oil that remains in the sand that never will be recovered," he said.

Mr. Schwabrow added that "if we can develop fields on a systematic basis and drill wells according to the best location—regardless of property lines—you can get a lot more oil out of the field than you can under competitive bases where they try to get all of the oil out in the shortest possible time."